MARVEL® COMICS

ELEKTRA®

MAR '97 5

ELEKTRA®

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YOU'LL GET YOUR HEART'S DESIRE. BUT FIRST, YOU MUST

KILL!

DIRECT EDITION

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MIKE DEODATO JR.

SO, THAT'S IT THEN, *ELEKTRA*. IT'S YOUR DECISION.

YOU GET TO SEE YOUR *DEAD FATHER* AT REGULAR INTERVALS, AND NEW YORK IS SPARED A RAMPAGING MOB OF ASSASSINS TRYING TO OUT-*PSYCHOPATH* EACH OTHER.

AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KILL ME.*

*SEE LAST ISSUE FOR THE FATHER-DAUGHTER REUNION.
--BOBBIE

STAN LEE PRESENTS

FOURTEEN DAYS

PETER MILLIGAN	MIKE DEODATO JR.	DEODATO STUDIOS	CHRISTIE SCHEELE	JACK MORELLI	BOBBIE CHASE	BOB HARRAS
WRITER	PENCILS	INKS	COLORS	LETTERS	EDITOR	CHIEF

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WAIT! COME BACK HERE!

I'M SORRY, BUT KILLING ME WON'T BE THAT EASY. THIS BODY IS SIMPLY A VESSEL IN WHICH MY MAGNIFICENT MIND IS RESIDING.

THE REAL ME IS FAR AWAY.

MY FATHER... I TOUCHED HIM... HE SPOKE TO ME. HE SEEMED REAL, BUT...

WAS HE? OR WAS HE--

HE WAS REAL.

HIS SPIRIT TORN FROM THE SKY, CRUSHED INTO A BODY FASHIONED BY ME.

YOU HAVE FOURTEEN DAYS TO REACH YOUR DECISION.

UNDERSTAND THAT THOUGH I CRAVE DEATH... AT THE FINAL MOMENT, I WILL FIGHT IT.

IN TRYING TO KILL ME... YOU MAY DESTROY YOUR OWN SOUL.

BUT SURELY YOU WILL RISK THAT ALREADY TARNISHED OBJECT FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE THE ONE YOU LOVE MOST.

NICE NECKLACE, BY THE WAY.

THE NECKLACE... PAPA'S NECKLACE...

BULLSEYE HAD IT...

...THE ARCHITECT GAVE IT TO HIM... BUT...

HOW DID YOU GET HOLD OF MY FATHER'S NECKLACE?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY...

...father...

NINA McCABE'S FATHER IS BURIED HERE, ALONGSIDE THE DEAD OF LONG ISLAND...

DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH, MAC?

DIDN'T UNTIL I MET YOU. I THINK MAYBE I DO NOW.

I WASN'T REALLY DEAD... NOT LIKE THE DEAD HERE ARE DEAD.

THERE ARE LEVELS OF DEAD-NESS?

YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT.

LOOK AT HER. YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING?

IF ONLY I COULD SEE HIM ONE MORE TIME... IF ONLY I COULD SAY THE THINGS I NEVER GOT AROUND TO SAYING...

"...IF ONLY SOMEONE COULD BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE."

RIGHT.

POOR KID MUST BE ALL CHOPPED UP INSIDE.

JEEZ, AM I TOTALLY STARVING, OR AM I TOTALLY STARVING?

LET'S EAT.

CLEVELAND, OHIO...

HE PROMISED HER THAT HIS OLD WAYS ARE BEHIND HIM.

BUT HOW CAN ANYONE LIVE ON THE MONEY THAT LOUSY JOB PAYS...?

BACON'S ALMOST READY.

NO TIME FOR BREAKFAST. WANNA MAKE AN EARLY START.

ABOUT TIME YOU TOOK AN INTEREST IN YOUR WORK!

GOD, HOW HE HATES HIM.

A MAN SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LIVE UNDER THE ROOF OF HIS WIFE'S FATHER.

THE PHONE CALL SAID THIS JOB COULD BE WORTH BIG MONEY.

SEE YOU LATER, HONEY.

YOU'RE PRETTY AFFECTIONATE THIS MORNING...

JUST ONE MORE JOB, THEN HE'LL BURN THAT COSTUME AND THAT WHIP.

HE KEEPS IT IN HIS GARAGE.

THE COSTUME THAT JUSTIN HAMMER BANKROLLED.

JUST ONE MORE JOB, HE THINKS.

HIS NAME IS MARK SCARLOTTI.

HE IS ALSO KNOWN AS BLACKLASH.

THERE ARE FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE MILES TO NEW YORK CITY.

PITTSBURGH 97

NEW YORK CITY 523

THE THEATER OF DIONYSUS --

--WEST OF BROADWAY.

THE DANCE IS GOING TO BE BASED ON SOME OF THE OLD GREEK LEGENDS, PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE HOUSE OF ATREUS.

IT WAS LIKE THERE WAS A CURSE ON THIS HOUSE... DEATH AND SLAUGHTER AND REVENGE WERE HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION... LIKE A DISEASE.

IT'S ABOUT COMING THROUGH THAT...

...BREAKING FREE OF THE OLD BARBARIC CYCLE OF REVENGE...

...NOT ALLOWING PAST DEATH TO TWIST AND SHAPE FUTURE LIFE.

SO IT'S KINDA BASED ON THE ORESTEIA BY AESCHYLUS?

Ah, THAT'S ONE OF THE MAIN SOURCES, YEAH...

YOU'VE READ--

THERE WAS A COMIC BOOK ADAPTATION.

AND YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE DANCE ANYMORE.

BUT LOOK, SURE, IT REALLY HURT.

I LOVED MY FATHER. SEEING HIM KILLED WAS...

...TRAGIC.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO BE UNHAPPY ALL MY LIFE.

NICE WORDS, SHE THINKS.

BUT ELEKTRA IS THE ONE WHO IS SO MESSED UP...

...SHE'S CONSIDERING ENTERING INTO A DEAL WITH SOME KIND OF DEVIL...

...SO SHE CAN GET TO DANCE WITH THE GHOST OF HER OWN DEAD FATHER.

HEY, SHE SEEMS TO BE PRETTY TOGETHER, CONSIDERING WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH.

HI, KONRAD.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT MAYBE SHE'S A LITTLE...

HIS NAME IS KONRAD WEISS.

EXCUSE ME! CHORUS! HAS SOMEONE BEEN PUMPING VALIUM INTO THE DRINKING WATER?

HE IS DEVELOPING AN ULCER.

HE CALLS THE ULCER MATTHEW AFTER AN OLD FRIEND.

I WAS SAYING ...MAYBE SHE'S A LITTLE TOO TOGETHER.

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

ARE YOU PERHAPS CONSIDERING A LITTLE REHEARSAL SOMETIME? I KNOW WE DON'T OPEN FOR ALL OF TWO WEEKS, BUT--

I'LL MAKE IT UP THAT NIGHT. IT'LL BE MORE SPONTANEOUS.

HEY, SURE, I MEAN, WHAT'S TO LOSE?

EXCEPT A FEW HUNDRED GRAND, MY DANCE GROUP, MY THEATER...

...REPUTATION...

...SANITY...

...DISARMING INSOUCIANCE.

LATER.

HE IS GRACEFUL.

OWW!

HE MOVES SILKILY THROUGH THE STILL AIR OF THE DANCE THEATER.

BUT THEN HE HAS TO LAND.

KONRAD WEISS HAS A DEMON, HIS OWN SPECIAL PAIN, DEEPER AND NASTIER THAN THE ULCER.

I'M HANDSOME, CLEVER, POPULAR.

I WAS EVEN CALLED MODEST ONCE.

AND EVERY TIME HE SEES ELEKTRA DANCE, THAT DEMON'S TOOTH GETS A LITTLE SHARPER.

OH, YES, HE THINKS, I'M RICH.

BUT I CAN'T DO THE ONE THING I WANT TO DO MOST IN THE WORLD.

ADMIT IT. ADMIT IT, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU ARE...

...AND ONE THING YOU'LL ALWAYS BE.

THE LAME BOY.

LITTLE KONNIE CLUBFOOT.

THE CLEVERLY DISGUISED RAISED HEEL MIGHT HIDE THE LIMP FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

BUT NOT FROM YOURSELF, KONRAD.

NEVER FROM YOURSELF.

DAY FIVE.

ONE WAS ONCE A HOMECOMING QUEEN, THE OTHER A DIPLOMAT'S DAUGHTER. NOW THEY ARE DEVOTEES OF THE RAZOR.

PAMPERING THEIR MASTER, RAZORFIST, WHO AWAITS THE CALL IN THIS SHABBY HOTEL ROOM.

ACROSS TOWN IN HELL'S KITCHEN...

...HE HOPES THE CREATURE HE WILL BE ASKED TO ASSASSINATE IS EVIL.

PURE EVIL.

HE IS BUSHWACKER.

MAYBE IF HE KILLS SOMEONE REALLY BAD...

...HIS EX-WIFE MIGHT START TO FORGIVE HIM.

DAY SIX.

A RAGGED CIRCUS ON AN EAST RIVER WASTELAND.

WHERE THE TASKMASTER GROWS IMPATIENT.

ELSEWHERE, THE TELEPORTING ASSASSIN KNOWN AS FATALE...

...RETURNS TO NEW YORK...

...ANXIOUS NOT TO MISS THE ACTION.

DAY SEVEN.

LONG ISLAND.

CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE *FUN*? LIKE HAVE ALL OUR TEETH EXTRACTED WITHOUT ANY *ANESTHETIC*?

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SPEAK TO YOUR GRANDPARENTS SOONER OR LATER.

BESIDES, THEY MIGHT SEE THEIR WAY TO GIVING YOU SOME *MONEY*.

THAT WAS A *JOKE*.

SURE IT WAS. YOU'RE *WAY* TOO NICE TO THINK LIKE THAT.

LET'S GO...

"...INSIDE."

YOU'RE CRUSHING ME, HERE!

OUR LITTLE NINA!

THANK YOU...

...THANK YOU FOR BRINGING OUR BABY BACK TO US!

I'M NOT YOUR *BABY*, GRANDMA.

AND I'M GOING TO LIVE WITH *ELEKTRA*!

WHAT KINDA FOREIGN NAME IS ELEKTRA?

SHE'S NOT MUCH OLDER THAN YOU.

SHE'S OLDER THAN SHE LOOKS.

THANKS

WE WON'T ALLOW THIS!

GRAND-PARENTS GOT RIGHTS!

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME LIVE WITH YOU! WE'LL GO TO COURT!

ELEKTRA'S A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE COMMU-NITY.

LET NINA LIVE WITH ME AND YOU'LL SEE HER REGULARLY.

FORCE HER TO LIVE WITH YOU AND SHE'LL JUST RUN AWAY AGAIN.

"AND MY LIFE STORY WON'T SOUND TOO GOOD IN COURT.

"EX-MEMBER OF THE HAND.

"ONE-TIME ASSASSIN FOR THE KINGPIN OF CRIME.

"COME ON. IT'S NOT THAT HARD A DECISION.

"NOT AS THOUGH I'M OFFERING YOH VISITING RIGHTS TO A DEAD PERSON OR SOME-THING."

LATER..

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY SAID YES!

WHAT'RE WE DOING TONIGHT?

SHE DOESN T STOP TALKING.

CAN SHE REALLY BE COPING THIS WELL? OR IS SHE..

..WAIT.

THAT MAN.

HIS NAME IS FRED MYERS.

WHEN HE DRESSES UP A LITTLE, HE CALLS HIMSELF BOOMERANG.

PSSST! HE YOUR TYPE?

Uh-uh.. BUT THE KIND I USUALLY HAVE TROUBLE WITH

DO YOU HAVE A GUY, ELEKTRA? LIKE, YOU'RE NOT BAD LOOKING.

FOR SOMEONE WHO'S OLDER THAN SHE LOOKS?

TOUCHEE!

YEAH.

I GUESS I AM.

IT'S STUPID.

IT'S CRAZY.

WHUPP

SMAKK

BOXING

WOMEN

DOESN'T HE REMEMBER WHY HE GAVE THEM BOTH UP?

HE WAS LUCKY TO SURVIVE BOTH WITH-OUT SERIOUS BRAIN DAMAGE.

NOW HERE HE IS, ITCHING TO GET BACK IN THE RING

SNAP

JUST DYING TO GET ALL CUT UP AND BRUISED AGAIN.

WHAP

KING LAU HAS BEEN WATCHING McKINLEY STEWART.

IF YOU WANT MY OPINION --

WHICH I DON'T.

YOU'RE GETTING IT ANYWAY. I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS. YOU HAVE TO GET IT OUT IN THE OPEN.

TELL HER TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL.

AN' WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY?

ELEKTRA -- SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT-

--BUT I THINK I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU?

DAY NINE.

WHUMP

SHE TRIES TO CLEAR HER MIND.

ATTAIN A LEVEL OF PURE EMPTINESS.

BUT THOUGHTS OF HER FATHER UNSETTLE HER.

HOW SHE ACHES TO SEE HIM AGAIN

WHUMP

AND SHE COULD. ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS SAY

~YES!

WHUMP

WAKK

AND IF SHE DOES KILL THE ARCHITECT ?

THEN WHAT ?

WILL THE CITY LOOK ANY DIFFERENT ?

WHO AMONG THE MILLIONS OUT THERE WILL KNOW ?

SHE HEARS ANOTHER BUM NOTE FROM NEXT DOOR.

SHE'S BEEN PRACTISING FOR HOURS

OR CARE ?

NINA WANTS TO BE THE NEXT ALANIS MORRISETTE.

MAYBE SHE IS COPING WELL, AFTER ALL.

DAY TEN.

THE DUMP DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A PHONE.

MARK SCARLOTTI HAS TO GO DOWN TO THE LOBBY TO CALL HOME TO TRUDI, HIS WIFE.

ANOTHER GUY EXITS HIS ROOM AT THE SAME TIME.

MARK WONDERS IF IT STARTS NOW

HE DECIDES TO BACK OFF, WAIT UNTIL HE'S SPOKEN TO TRUDI.

HI, THERE. HOW YOU DOIN'?

SWELL PLACE, HUH?

ONLY ONE.

YOU COUNTED MANY COCK ROACHES IN YOUR ROOM?

COCK-ROACHES?

GNUGG!

KRANK

Ping

FIRST FLOOR

HIS ALIAS IS BULLET.

FOR HIM THE CONTEST HAS ALREADY BEGUN

FOR OTHERS..

..IT ALREADY SEEMS TO HAVE ENDED.

Oh.

WOW

I MEAN..

..I SEE.

SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU. IT WAS KING'S STUPID IDEA.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO SOUND SO...

...IT'S SOMETHING OF A SHOCK THAT'S ALL.

I'M NOT SAYING IT'S LOVE.

JUST SOME CRAZY IDEA ABOUT BEING MORE THAN FRIENDS.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BACK TO THE DOJO.

DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED. I'M A BIG BOY. I CAN TAKE A PUNCH. I CAN TAKE A "NO" TOO.

THOUGH A "YES" WOULD BE BETTER.

DON'T SAY NOTHING NOW. THINK ABOUT IT. SLEEP ON IT. WE'LL NEVER MENTION IT AGAIN.

UNLESS THE ANSWER IS "YES"

SEE YOU AROUND.

YEAH

YOU PROBABLY WILL.

OH? WOW? I MEAN? I SEE?

I THINK WE COULD BOTH DO WITH SOME AIR.

YOU THINK I COULD'VE BEEN MORE ARTICULATE?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO FOR IT MIGHT PUT A LITTLE COLOR IN YOUR CHEEKS. IS THERE A PROBLEM?

I MEAN, IS IT A BLACK AND WHITE THING?

BETH

Uh-Uh, NOTHING LIKE THAT, I JUST... I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT SOMEONE IN THAT WAY FOR SOME TIME, AND.

...WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR FINGERS?

FINGERS? OH, NOTHING, JUST.

BURNT THEM OR SOME-THING.

GOTTA USE THE BATH-ROOM

SHE MAKES A SILENT TOAST TO MCKINLEY STEWART

HIS PROPOSITION MADE HER FORGET, FOR ONE MOMENT, THAT OTHER PROFOSITION

THE PEOPLE ARE YOUNG AND LIGHT AND LOUD.

MAYBE SHE SHOULD START DATING MAC.

WHAT'S SHE DOING, WAITING FOR MR. RIGHT?

ON WHICH SHE NOW ONLY HAS A FEW DAYS TO MAKE UP HER MIND.

WHAT A FULL AND RICH LIFE WE LEAD

DAY TWELVE.

SHE VISITS THE YOUTH NAMED RAT...

.. INJURED IN BULLSEYE'S ASSAULT ON HER DOJO.

THERE'S LITTLE CHANGE WITH THE PATIENT

DR STRANGE ?

UNDOUBT-EDLY.

I HAVE UNEARTHED A LITTLE DATA ON OUR ARCH-ITECTURAL CURIOSITY.

HE'S INCREDIBLY ANCIENT, AND HAS HAD MANY ALIASES.

I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.

ONE ALIAS IN PARTICULAR INTRIGUES ME.

THE SHINING ONE.

PERHAPS I SHOULD CONJURE UP A LITTLE THUNDER FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

THE EARLY VEDIC GODS IN INDIA WERE CALLED SHINING ONES. MAYBE IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE, A LITTLE CULTURAL SLIPPAGE...

YOU'RE SAYING THE ARCHITECT IS A GOD?

IT IS EASIER TO CALL YOURSELF A GOD THAN TO BE ONE.

WELL, GOD OR NO GOD... THE ARCHITECT HAS ASKED ME TO KILL HIM.

INTERESTING.

IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT USUALLY CHARACTERIZES ANCIENT BEINGS, IT'S A DISTINCT AVERSION TO DEATH.

I IMAGINE HE'S OFFERED YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN?

YOU COULD SAY THAT. I STILL HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND.

WELL, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I ALWAYS FIND IT'S A GOOD RULE...

...TO DO EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOUR ENEMIES WANT YOU TO DO.

HEY, MISTER OCCULT, WANT TO SHARE A CAB?

HE'S SEEN THE WHOLE THING.

HE'S BRUISED, BATTERED AND BANDAGED.

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES...

MARK SCARLOTTI THINKS HIS LUCK MIGHT JUST BE CHANGING.

DAY THIRTEEN.

"Your bed is hard. As hard as your body.

"But I know you long to push your pretty little sais into my heart.

"Let us both dance in hell together.

"Let us both smother ourselves in the viscera of the world and kiss until the end of time."

FOOTSTEPS.

NINA?

NOW THE DOORS TO THE FIRE ESCAPE.

THIS LATE AT NIGHT.?

A SCREAM.

SHE WAS MEANT TO LOOK AFTER HER.

SECONDS LATER...

NINA!

HEY! FALSE ALARM!

SOME JOKER JUST THREW AN OVER-COAT DOWN HERE!

AND BEHIND HER...

...THE ANIMAL-CRY.

I...WOKE UP... ON THE EDGE... I... I... ALMOST...

ELEKTRA, IT HURTS SO MUCH...

IT HURTS SO... SO...

I KNOW. I KNOW IT DOES.

AND IT WON'T BE EASY. BUT I'LL BE HERE. WE'LL BE HERE FOR EACH OTHER.

AND WE'LL COME THROUGH IT.

YES.

WE WILL COME THROUGH IT.

DAY FOURTEEN.

CAN YOU HEAR ME? I HOPE YOU CAN HEAR ME.

IT WAS GOOD, WASN'T IT? THAT MOMENT WE HAD TOGETHER? HOLDING EACH OTHER. JUST TO HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN WAS SO SWEET.

YOU KNOW SOMETHING? I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT YOUR VOICE SOUNDED LIKE.

NOW I SHALL REMEMBER IT AS LONG AS I LIVE.

EVERY TIME I SEE A FUNERAL CORTEGE I REMEMBER FOLLOWING YOURS THROUGH THE STREETS OF ATHENS, AND THEN ON TOWARDS THE ISTHMUS OF CORINTH.

AND I THINK ABOUT ALL THE THINGS YOU COULD HELP ME WITH. NINA. MCKINLEY. THE ARCHITECT.

YOU'D TELL ME IN SUCH A WAY, I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE GIVING ME ADVICE.

YOU'D LET ME REACH MY OWN DECISION. AND THEN YOU'D SMILE, AND SAY...

...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, ELEKTRA.

YOU AREN'T HERE TO HELP ME THIS TIME. THIS IS MY DECISION.

HE'S GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, PAPA. HE'S LISTENING RIGHT NOW. HE CAN HEAR ME. HE'S WAITING.

SO NOW I TELL HIM...

NO!

TO BE CONTINUED!